

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Original) A catheter device comprising an elongated body member having a distal portion and a deflection mechanism operably coupled to the distal portion so as to cause the distal portion to deflect with respect to a longitudinal axis of the elongated body member, wherein the catheter device further includes: a guide member; a guiding mechanism coupled to the elongated body member and configured so as to guide the guide member; and wherein the guiding mechanism includes an exit portion from which the guide member exits when the guide member is being deployed from the guiding mechanism, where the exit portion is disposed with respect to the distal portion so the distal portion deflects from and with respect to the guide member, when the guide member is in deployed condition.

Claims 2-8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Original) The catheter device of claim 1, wherein the guiding mechanism comprises an artifact on the external surface of the elongated body member and extending axially along the elongated body member, where the artifact and the guide member are configured and arranged so the guide member is moveably retained by the artifact and so as to allow for deployment of the guide member.

Claims 10-14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Original) A catheter device comprising an elongated body member having a distal portion and a deflection mechanism operably coupled to the distal portion so as to cause the distal portion to deflect with respect to a longitudinal axis of the elongated body member, wherein the catheter device further includes: a guide member; a guiding mechanism coupled to the elongated body member and configured so as to guide the guide member; an ablation device being disposed in the distal portion, the ablation device being configured and arranged to ablate tissues proximal the ablation device; wherein the guiding mechanism includes an exit portion from which the guide member exits when the guide member is being deployed from the

guiding mechanism; wherein the exit portion is disposed with respect to the distal portion so the distal portion deflects from and with respect to the guide member, when the guide member is in deployed condition; wherein the exit portion is configured and arranged so that the distal portion when in a deflected condition is rotatable about the guide member, when the guide member is in a deployed condition.

Claims 16-25. (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Original) A method for ablating tissue in particular atrial tissue, comprising the steps providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion and a guide member; deploying the guide member so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through an opening in, and disposed in, a chamber, vessel or vein of a body; deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member.

Claim 27. (Original) The tissue ablating method of claim 26, further comprising the step (s) contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and actuating the ablation device.

Claim 28. (Original) The tissue ablating method of claim 27, further comprising the step (s) rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 29. (Original) The tissue ablating method of claim 28, further comprising the step (s) of : de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 30. (Original) The tissue ablating method of claim 28, further comprising the step (s) maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claim 31. (Original) The tissue ablating method of claims further comprising the step (s) the deflectable distal portion during said rotating so as to maintain the at least a part of the distal portion in contact with the tissues.

Claims 32-36. (Cancelled)

Claim 37. (Original) A method for ablating tissue in particular atrial tissue, comprising the steps providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion, a guide member and a guiding mechanism that moveably retains at least a portion of the guide member; localizing an end of the deflectable distal portion with respect an opening in a chamber, vessel or vein of a mammalian body; deploying the guide member from the guiding mechanism so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through the opening in, and is disposed in, the chamber, vessel or vein of the mammalian body; deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member; contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and actuating the ablation device.

Claim 38. (Original) The tissue ablating method of claim 37, further comprising the step (s) of : rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 39. (Original) The tissue ablating method of claim 38, further comprising the step (s) of : de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 40. (Original) The tissue ablating method of claim 38, further comprising the step (s) of : maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claim 41. (Currently amended) The tissue ablating method of ~~claim 38-claims 38-40~~, further comprising the step (s) re-configuring the deflectable distal portion during said rotating so as to maintain the at least a part of the distal portion in contact with the tissues.

Claims 42-45. (Cancelled)

Claim 46. (Original) A method for treating arrhythmias, comprising the steps providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion and a guide member; deploying the guide member so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through an opening in, and disposed in, a vein of a mammalian body; deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member.

Claim 47. (Original) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step (s) of : contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and actuating the ablation device.

Claim 48. (Original) The tissue of claim 47, further comprising the step (s) rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 49. (Original) The method of claim 48, further comprising the step (s) de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claims 50-56. (Cancelled)

Claim 57. (Original) A method for treating arrhythmias, comprising the steps of : providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion, a guide

member and a guiding mechanism that moveably retains at least a portion of the guide member; localizing an end of the deflectable distal portion within the left atrium of a mammalian body and with respect to an opening in a vein; deploying the guide member from the guiding mechanism so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through the opening in, and is disposed in, the vein; deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member; contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and actuating the ablation device.

Claim 58. (Original) The method of claim 57, further comprising the step (s) of: rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 59. (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step (s) de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 60. (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step (s) of: maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claims 61-64. (Cancelled)

Claim 65. (Original) A method for treating left atrial arrhythmia in a left atrium of a mammalian body; comprising the steps of: providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion, a guide member and a guiding mechanism that moveably retains at least a portion of the guide member; introducing a portion of the catheter device including the deflectable distal portion into the left atrium ; positioning an end of the deflectable distal portion with respect to an a pulmonary vein extending from the left atrium; deploying the guide member from the guiding mechanism so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through the opening in, and is disposed in, the pulmonary

vein; deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member;
contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the
deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and actuating
the ablation device.

Claim 66. (Original) The method of claim 65, further comprising the step
(s) rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and wherein said
contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 67. (Original) The method of claim 66, further comprising the step
(s) de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and activating the ablation
device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 68. (Original) The method of claim 66, further comprising the step
(s) of: maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflectable distal
portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claims 69-72. (Cancelled)

Claim 73. (Currently amended) The method of claim 37~~claims 37-72~~,
further comprising the steps monitoring electrical conduction signals along a pulmonary
vein; identifying an origin of atrial arrhythmias as being located in the pulmonary vein
based upon the monitored conduction signals.